



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,250	03/23/2004	Koichi Taniguchi	60188-818	1777
7590	06/15/2005			EXAMINER
Jack Q. Lever, Jr. McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY 600 Thirteenth Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3096				NGUYEN, THINH T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/806,250	TANIGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thinh T. Nguyen	2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED OFFICE ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. However, the applicant cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which the applicant may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

2. Fig. 7 to 13 are not designated by a legend such as " prior art ". The legend is necessary in order to clarify what applicant 's invention is (see MPEP paragraph 608.02). noted that all these figures referred to the background section (i.e. prior art).

Claim Objection

3. Claim 12 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75© as being of improper dependant claim form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim, or amend the claim to place the claim in proper dependant form or rewrite the claim in independent form. Reciting that a test probe pin (from an outside tester) is brought into contact does not further limit the structure of the electrode pad of the semiconductor device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102(b/e) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this office action.

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

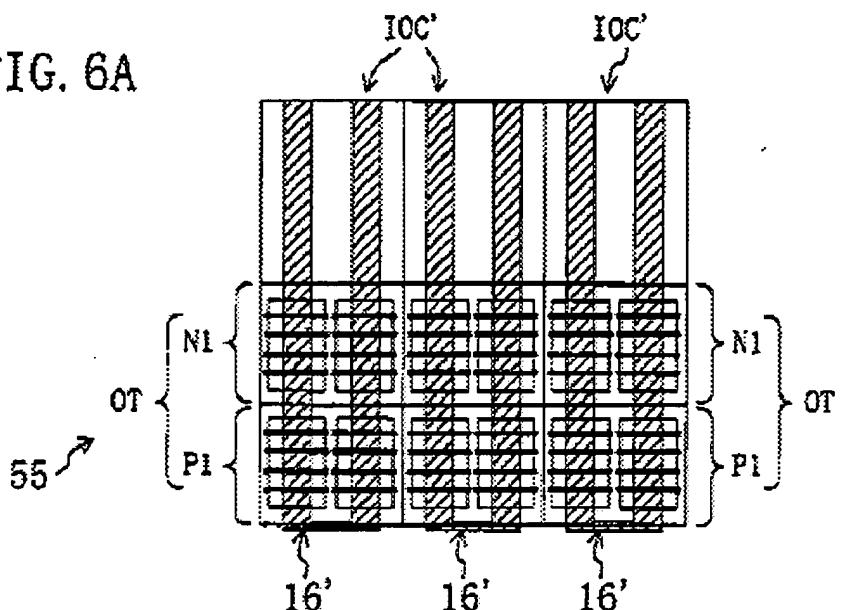
- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b/a) as being anticipated by The Applicant Admitted Prior Art (Fig 12A to E).

REGARDING CLAIM 13

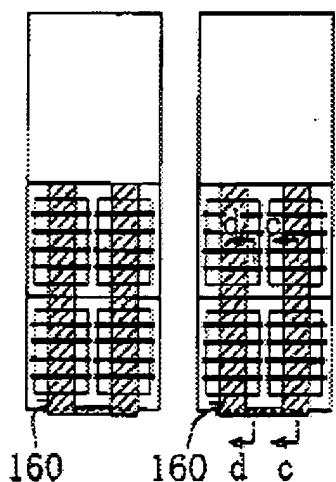
Applicant Admitted Prior Art discloses a semiconductor device in which a plurality of cells each including an output transistor formed on a substrate are arranged in line, wherein each said cell includes a line provided in an uppermost layer to be connected to an electrode pad for outputting to the outside an output of the output transistor, and wherein the line is provided at a predetermined distance inwardly from a width-direction end portion of the cell. (see fig 12A, and fig 12B , the AAPA and compare with Applicant Claimed invention fig 6A)

FIG. 6A



APPLICANT INVENTION

FIG. 12A



APPLICANT ADMITTED PRIOR ART.

FIG. 12A

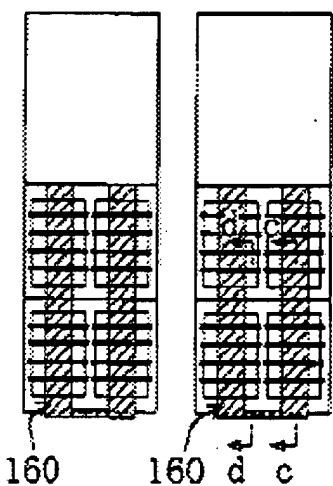


FIG. 12B

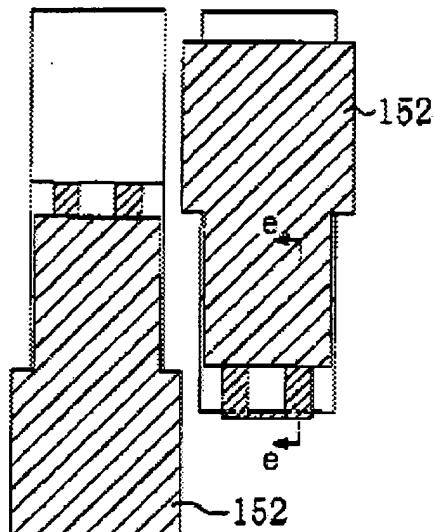


FIG. 12C

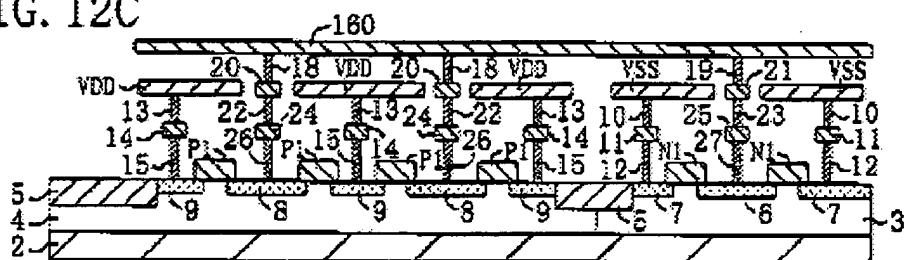


FIG. 12D

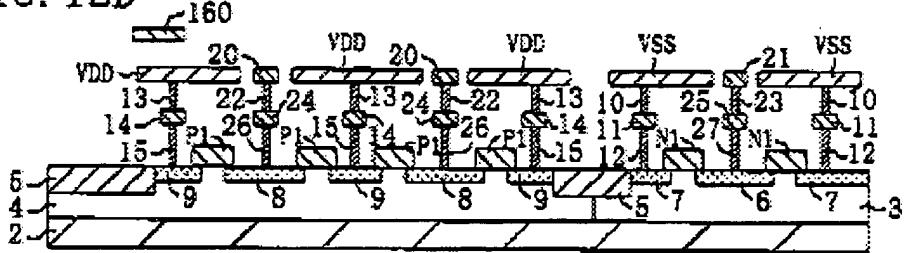
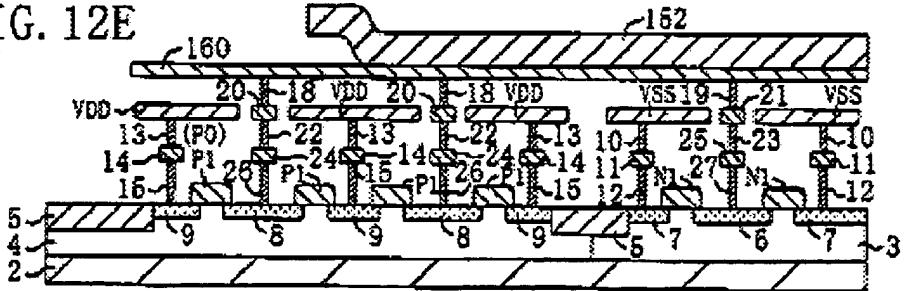


FIG. 12E



AAPA

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of U.S.C. 103(a) which form the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (fig 12B) in view of further remark.

REGARDING CLAIM 14

Applicant Admitted Prior Art (fig 12 B) discloses all the invention including the electrode pad provided over an associated one of the plurality of cells includes a pad portion having a larger width than that of the associated cell, missing in the AAPA is the limitation wherein the predetermined distance between the line and a width-direction end portion of the associated cell in which the line is provided is set to be a larger distance than a distance by which part of the pad portion of the electrode pad extends in the inward direction of an adjacent cell to the associated cell beyond the width of the associated cell.

This limitation however, is considered obvious since it only amount to a mere change in Size. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the Art.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

8. Claims 1-11 are allowed. Claim 1-11 are allowed because the priors fail to teach a semiconductor structure that has all the limitation as recited in claim 1.
9. When responding to the office action, Applicants are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and the page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.
10. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the day of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to be abandoned (see M.P.E.P. 710.02(b)).
11. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) which papers have been placed of record in the file.

CONCLUSION

12. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant disclosure: Ishigaki et al. (US patent 6,236,117) disclose an semiconductor device including shunt interconnection.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached at 571-272-1787.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval [PAIR] system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thinh T. Nguyen
TTN

Art Unit 2818



David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800